

## Labour manifesto plans would transform community energy nationwide

- Labour's Local Power Plan would turbocharge community energy and local climate action
- Targeted grants to local authorities and low interest loans to communities would kick start thousands of transformational local energy projects
- Manifesto pledges to double onshore wind capacity, unlocking clean, cheap power across the country

Community Energy England welcomes the [Labour manifesto](#). The party's plans have the potential to transform our energy system through local climate action that benefits local people.

Labour's Local Power Plan offers grants for local authorities and low interest loans for community energy organisations to do new local, community-led and owned clean energy projects. Over five years, this could deliver 8 gigawatts of solar and onshore wind – the equivalent of 2.5 nuclear power stations – enough to power 4.35 million homes.

Emma Bridge, Chief Executive of Community Energy England, said, "We welcome the Labour Manifesto's plan to grow our fantastic community energy sector and unlock huge benefits for local people. Community energy projects deliver 12-13 times the community benefit of commercial energy installations so are uniquely well suited to engage local people to participate in the energy transformation. Labour's Local Power Plan is a win, win, win for communities, local economies and the country."

In 2021, the [Environmental Audit Committee advised the government](#) that "due to the urgency of the climate crisis and the vital roles communities will have to play in reaching net zero, it is essential... to support the long-term growth of community energy across the UK." Chris Skidmore MP in his [Review of the Government's Net Zero Policies](#) recommended that the government "turbocharge community energy."

The Labour manifesto and their Local Power Plan demonstrate that the party understands that empowering people and communities to take local climate action, which will also benefit local people, is essential to achieving net zero.

We are pleased to see real backing for community energy in the Liberal Democrat and Green manifestos too. All parties with plans to meet the scale of the climate challenge share the consensus that community energy is crucial for any serious climate policy programme.

We are disappointed that the Conservative manifesto, despite stretching to 80 pages, does not mention community energy at all. The manifesto doubles down on commitments to invest more in fossil fuels, including new gas power stations, while continuing to block renewable energy developments. Restrictions on new onshore wind turbines have effectively stopped new ones being built in England, with just a handful of new turbines being built per year. The programme the Conservatives have set out would slow down progress towards net zero and cement our dependence on fossil fuels for years to come.

Labour's pledge to double onshore wind capacity by 2030 is welcome. New onshore wind power in England has been held back since the Conservative government introduced a de facto ban in 2015, so

plans to unlock this cheap and clean source of electricity are good news for the community energy sector and the country.